

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 29, 2013
To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Bond Accountability Committee (BAC)
Subject: 1st BAC Report to the Board

Background

In the November 2012 election, voters approved a \$482M capital improvement bond for Portland Public Schools. The PPS Board appointed a Citizen Bond Accountability Committee to monitor the planning and progress of the bond program relative to voter-approved work scope, schedule and budget objectives.

Activities to Date

The BAC has met three times since passage of the bond measure. All meetings are publicly noticed and open to the public.

From the outset, the BAC has worked to gain a complete understanding of the bond program, and to agree with staff on the methodologies for reporting against key metrics going forward. PPS staff has been very helpful and supportive of the process, and has demonstrated a consistent commitment to transparency and clarity in all dealings with the BAC.

The BAC has r

While it is premature at this very early stage to report any budgetary concerns of substance, the BAC believes that the current reporting format, especially regarding "Program Costs" and "Bond 2012", needs some improvement in order to adequately communicate budget status. Staff is open to suggestions in this area, and we will work together to develop a more understandable and transparent format for reporting these budgets/costs.

The BAC has reviewed the conceptual/baseline program schedule, and has generally found it to be reasonable as far it goes, given that the scope of design and construction is at a very preliminary stage. It is encouraging that, less than 6 months after Bond passage, an organization is in place, construction at 5 schools is only weeks away, the EdSpecs process is moving along, and there will shortly be design teams on board for two of the High School projects.